

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

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R 180825Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0254

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: MUSLIM SCHOOL BURNED IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS

1. A SMALL MUSLIM SCHOOL CAUGHT FIRE AND WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS, THE CLOSEST MAJOR TOWN TO TURKISH BORDER IN THRACE, EARLY MORNING OF AUGUST 16. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ARSON IS SUSPECTED AND A FULL INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY.

2. FOLLOWING SLOGAN WAS PAINTED ON WALLS OF THE SCHOOL AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS: "AWAKE GREEKS* THE AEGEAN IS SOLD OUT BY THE TRAITORS. DEATH TO THE TURKS*" SLOGAN WAS SIGNED "AUGUST 4". ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES, REPORTS OF THE SLOGANS WERE OMITTED FROM EARLY PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE FIRE ON THE ADVICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARIAT OF PRESS AND INFORMATION IN ATHENS, BUT THEY HAVE APPEARED IN LATER STORIES.

3. AUGUST 4TH ORGANIZATION, APPARENTLY NAMED FRO DATE METAXAS ASSUMED POWER IN 1936, FIRST SURFACED IN ANNOUNCEMENT SENT AUGUST 9 TO NEWSPAPERS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE GREEK LETTER OMEGA AS ITS LETTERHEAD READ:

"PARTY OF THE NATIONAL ADVANCED GUARD OF THE FOURTH OF

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AUGUST, OFFICE OF NORTHERN GREECE. AFTER THE VIOLATION

OF OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AEGEAN, THE WORD SHOULD
BE GIVEN TO THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, IF THE ARMED
FORCES WILL NOT BE USED IN CASES LIKE THIS, WHAT MUST
THEY BE USED FOR?".
SIGNED NEGROPONTE

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NNN

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